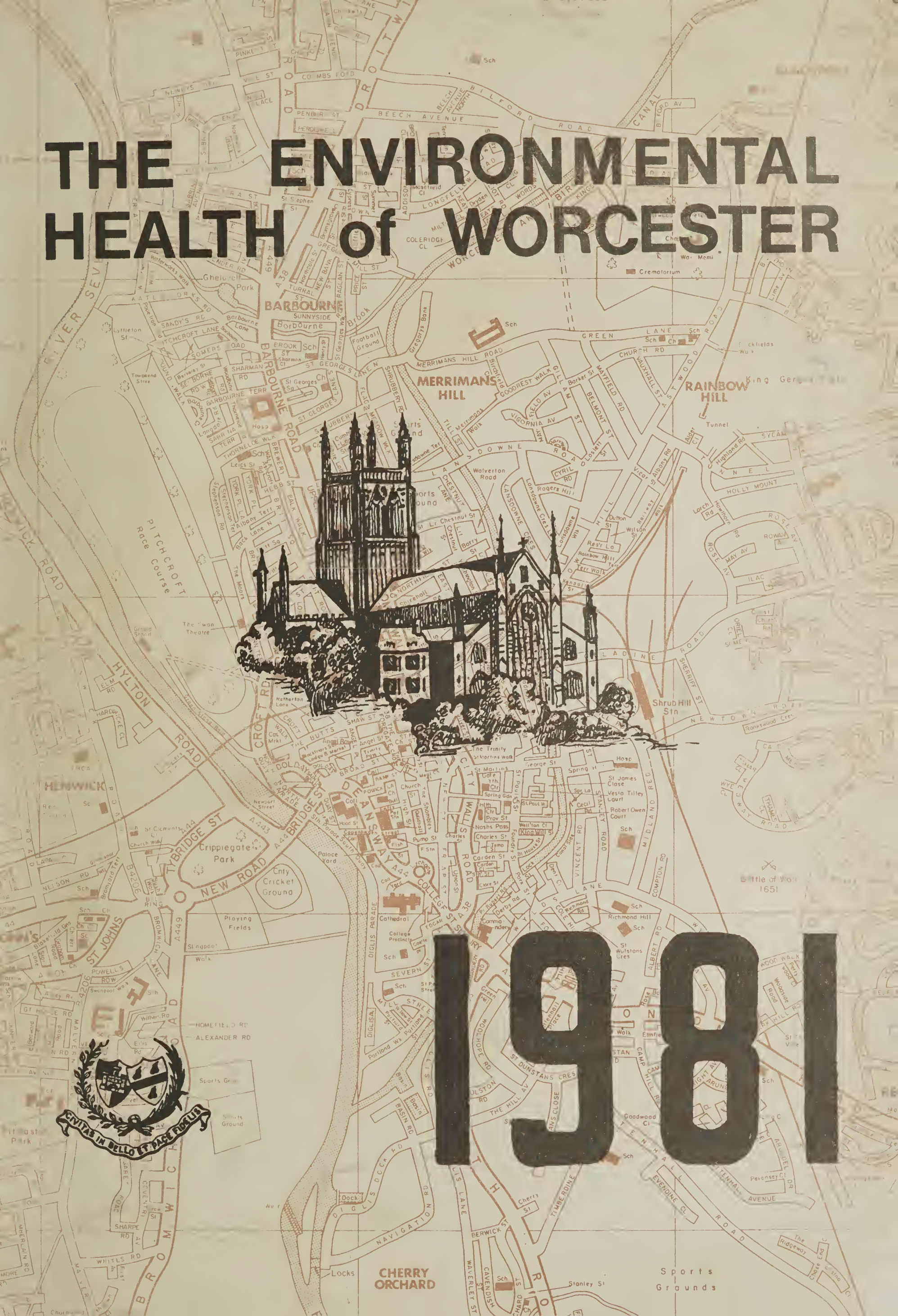
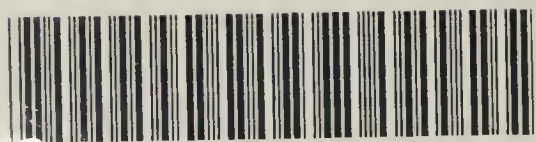


# THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH of WORCESTER



1981





22200213290

"Smoking is the greatest single preventable  
cause of disease and early death in this country."

Sir George Young

D.H.S.S.



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THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

31st December, 1981

His Worship The Mayor

(Councillor Michael John Layland)

Chairman: Councillor Arnold Charles Bryan

Vice-Chairman: Councillor John Richard Andrew Griffiths

Councillors

Ivor John Anthony

Michael John Axe

Bryan Robert Bennett

Robert Alfred Allen Bullock

Geoffrey Maurice Densley

Peter Frank Elkins

Adrian John Leopard

Francis Poole

George Thomas Randall

Graham Henry John Simister

Ian Robert Tucker

Mrs. Shiela Elizabeth Wall

Mrs. Margaret Clare Gertrude Wills

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF

31st December 1981

City Environmental Health Officer

J. Hartley D.M.A., F.I.E.H., M.R.S.H.

Deputy City Environmental Health Officer

T. C. Coleman D.M.A., M.I.E.H.

Senior Environmental Health Officers

R. G. Fidoe D.M.A., M.I.E.H.

R. I. Key M.I.E.H., D.M.S.

District Environmental Health Officers

B. Roberts M.I.E.H., M.R.S.H. (North District)

T. J. Mills M.I.E.H., M.R.S.H. (South District)

Vacant (West District)

Technical Assistants

R. G. Badham (M. Inst. S.H.S.)

H. Evans

E. Winsor

Pest Officer

S. Rawlings

Pest Operative

N. Potter

Administration and Clerical

L. J. Cullwick (Admin. Officer)

Mrs. S. Hare

Miss A. Watkins

Mrs. S. M. Hughes

Mrs. P. Shaw

Markets Constable

C. Parkinson



ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF THE CITY

by

J. Hartley, D.M.A., F.I.E.H., M.R.S.H.

To the Right Worshipful Mayor, and Councillors of the City of Worcester  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1981 the economic health of the country was of considerably more concern to both Government and governed than environmental health yet both are inextricably linked and both are of equal concern if the quality of life of all of our citizens is to be maintained and enriched. There is a very real danger at a time of economic stress that industry and commerce may be tempted to cut investment in environmental protection - an attractive option at the time but one which could prove extremely costly in the long term, and one which must be strongly resisted.

A sombre year in many respects did produce the odd ray of sunshine, and for some youngsters at least the prospect of training and employment through the decision of the City Council to sponsor a Training Workshop for the young unemployed within the City. The task of furthering the project fell to myself and the Personnel Officer, and despite initial problems we are confident that the workshop will be in full operation in the year ahead.

The idiosyncracies of the English are always likely to dispel the deepest gloom, and right on cue we were presented with the case of the tarantula spider who occupied pride of place in a glass tank on the bar top of a city pub. His tank top was covered by a piece of wood, which the more intrepid or the more inebriated customers were prone to lift, either to more closely admire his hirsute physique or to feed him peanuts. Having poured over various bits and pieces of legislation, including the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Dangerous Wild Animals Act, we concluded that the Health and Safety at Work Act was being breached and he was hastily removed from public view to more secure surroundings.

Mr. J. Hawes, the Officer who dealt with this case, left us towards the end of the year, and I should like to record my good wishes to him and

hope that his encounters in his new authority will be less unnerving.

My grateful thanks are extended to the Chairman and members of the Environment and Traffic Committee for their continued support, and to my colleagues in other departments and organisations who have afforded me every courtesy and assistance. The extent and the quality of the work of the staff of the Environmental Health Department is set out in the following pages, and I would commend them all for their unstinting endeavours to serve the public.

Yours faithfully,

J. Hartley.

GENERAL COMPLAINTS

1071 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Health Officers during the year. This figure shows a 20% increase on the previous year. The distribution of the complaints, as indicated at figure 1 below, shows a large increase in the proportion related to the environment, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion related to the remainder.

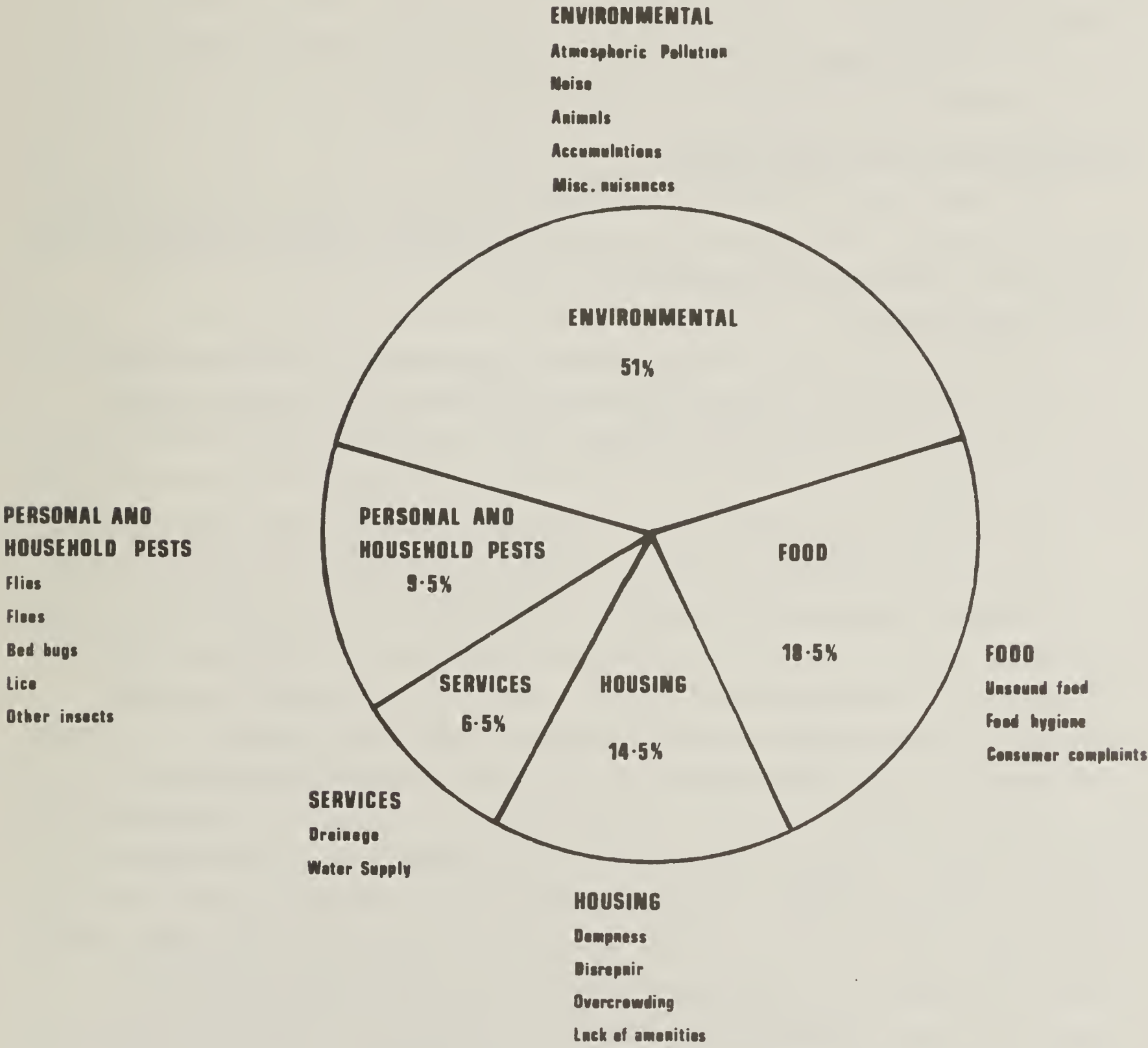


FIG 1 (COMPLAINTS)

## WATER SUPPLY

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The mid-year population of the City was 75,700 and the number of houses supplied by the Severn Trent Water Authority from their mains was 28,286. Average consumption (both domestic and trade premises) was 19.31 megalitres per day compared with 20.83 megalitres per day in 1980. This reduction would seem to be mainly in trade consumption as a consequence of the general economic situation.

There still remain 7 houses relying on water from shallow wells in the rural parishes of the City.

### WHOLESOMENESS OF THE MAINS SUPPLY

The water supply of the City continues to be drawn from the River Severn and is processed at the Severn Trent Water Authority Treatment Works in Barbourne. The treatment consists of:

(a) Original plant:

Screening, raw water settlement (gives approximately 3 hours storage) with facility for pre-chlorination and de-chlorination, rapid gravity filtration, slow filtration, break point chlorination.

(b) New plant:

Break-point chlorination, alum coagulation and settlement, pH correction (caustic soda) at post settlement stage, rapid gravity filtration, secondary chlorination, terminal sulphonation, and the water from both plants is mixed at the post filtration stage prior to secondary chlorination. The water is then distributed into the mains system or to storage reservoirs at Rainbow Hill and Elbury Mount.

Regular chemical and bacteriological tests are undertaken by the Divisional Scientist of the Water Authority, which together with random samples taken at consumer outlets by the Environmental Health Officers ensures that wholesomeness is monitored effectively. Close liaison is maintained between officers of both authorities which enables immediate corrective action to be undertaken in the event of any unsatisfactory conditions being revealed on sampling. The need for such monitoring and liaison, which has become accepted practice was emphasised by a serious incident which occurred at Bramham in the Yorkshire Water Authority Area, where water from a polluted borehole caused an outbreak of gastric illness. A public enquiry into this incident recommended the closest liaison and communication between Water Authorities and Environmental Health Officers. An examination of the arrangements for co-operation locally indicated an



extremely satisfactory situation and the sampling results at Table I show the results of our joint efforts.

Three consumer complaints were received during the year relating to alleged taint and contamination but upon investigation were found to be without substance.

Whilst a summary of the chemical analyses of the water as it leaves the treatment work is set out in Table 2, the main concern for the consumer is the quality of water coming out of his kitchen tap. It is reassuring to note almost no variation between the water leaving the works and that issuing from the tap, despite the fact that many properties are still supplied through lead service pipes. This is attributed to the fact that the water in this area has no plumbo solvent properties.

#### WHOLESOMENESS OF STORED SUPPLIES

There is no doubting the excellent quality of water supplied from the mains, but under certain circumstances of prolonged and unsatisfactory storage contamination and deterioration can occur.

During the year a detailed investigation was made into the provision of a satisfactory water supply on a local company's holiday hire boats which had aboard in-built storage tanks which were filled with mains water.

Of a total of 52 samples taken for bacteriological and chemical examination 22 were reported to be unsatisfactory (6 samples being bacteriologically unfit and 16 samples containing iron in excess of the World Health Organisation permissible levels).

These unsatisfactory results were directly attributable to the company's failure to properly cleanse and sterilise the water storage tanks and in spite of strong representations they failed to take any positive action to improve the situation.

Formal action was, therefore, considered necessary and the Council's Solicitor investigated the current legal position concluding that no effective legal powers were available.

Appropriate representations were made to the A.D.C. and at the time of writing this report the company concerned are in liquidation.

As a result of this exercise colleagues in other districts have instigated their own investigations, and our sampling processes have been extended to investigate other consumer outlets utilising storage tanks in whatever form. The use of water storage tanks is confined in the main to large commercial premises, schools, hospitals, etc. and the need for self inspection and routine maintenance of such facilities cannot be too strongly stressed.

## FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLY

Under this heading, in his Annual Report on the Health of the City for 1971, Dr. Godfrey O'Donnell waxed poetical,

"Sweet City, Fluoridation now is dead  
Killed by neglect and lack of public care,  
And in those Councils where her life was shed  
No memories disturb the civic air."

The issue certainly might have received a medical death certificate, but it certainly refuses to lie down. The Regional Health Authority on behalf of the Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority requested the Severn Trent Water Authority to fluoridate the water supplied from the Worcester Water Treatment Works. The City Council, consistent with their reaction in previous years, expressed their opposition to fluoridation and seriously considered the possibility of applying for an injunction to restrain the Water Authority from such activity.

## DISCONNECTION OF WATER SUPPLIES

The disconnection of the water supply to domestic premises can have obvious health implications, and in the light of this the Severn Trent Water Authority promised a fairly flexible policy when dealing with non-payment of water rates. This policy basically precluded cut-off in cases where the occupier is suffering from infirmity or senility, where there is serious illness within the household or where the household includes children. Additionally, the local Environmental Health Department would be notified of all disconnections.

Despite what appeared to be a fairly liberal approach, a number of disconnections occurred which gave cause for some concern, when occupiers with children were, in fact, disconnected. Representations to the Water Authority revealed that their definition of a child only included anybody below the age of nine months. This rather restrictive definition was challenged by the Department bearing in mind that children up to 2 years of age are still wearing nappies, and the Local Joint Liaison Committee for Environmental Health gave their support for a change in policy. The response of the Severn Trent Water Authority is awaited with interest.

DETAILS OF TOTAL NUMBERS OF SAMPLES EXAMINED BY SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Source	Sampling Point	Bact. Exam.		Chem. Exam.	
		No. Taken	No. Satis.	No. Taken	No. Satis.
Worcester Water Treatment Works	Raw Water (Ex. River Severn)	51	0	353	353
	Raw Water after Settlement	48	0	250	250
	Primary Filtered Water	50	0	250	250
	Slow Sand Filtered Water	490	44	500	500
	Chemically dosed settled water	47	45	250	250
	Filtered Water	47	47	250	250
	Final Water	539	539	500	500
Distribution System	Consumer Tap Samples	261	255	261	255
	Distribution Reservoir Samples	57	57	57	57
Parishes of Warndon and St. Peter The Great	Wells	3	3	3	3

TABLE I



SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FINAL WATER EX. WORCESTER TREATMENT WORKS FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1981.

Determinand	Result in mg/l where appropriate		
	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Temperature °C	1.1	20.2	11.5
Free Chlorine as Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.38	1.20	0.77
Turbidity, F.T.U.	0.1	3.0	0.5
pH	6.68	8.24	7.33
Conductivity, us/cm at 2°C	210	962	479
Free Carbon Dioxide as Co <sub>2</sub>	6.0	35.0	10.2
Total Organic Carbon, as C	2.1	5.0	3.6
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	LO.01	LO.01	LO.01
Nitrite Nitrogen as N	LO.001	LO.001	LO.001
Nitrate Nitrogen as N	2.50	6.90	4.91
Chloride as Cl	23	115	59
Sulphate as So <sub>4</sub>	25	110	63
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub>	1.6	7.9	4.7
Orthophosphate as P	0.02	1.44	0.31
Fluoride as F	0.05	0.14	0.10
Hardness, Carbonate as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	43	149	94
Hardness, Non-Carbonate as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	33	158	82
Hardness, Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	86	256	177
Hardness, Calcium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	66	193	134
Hardness, Magnesium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	20	66	43
Sodium as Na	13.5	88.0	35.9
Potassium as K	2.6	7.4	4.3
Aluminium as Al	LO.01	0.21	0.05
Iron as Fe	LO.01	0.05	0.01
Manganese as Mn	LO.01	0.02	0.01
Copper as Cu	LO.01	0.02	0.01
Zinc as Zn	LO.01	0.03	0.01
Lead as Pb	LO.01	0.01	0.01
Cadmium as Cd	LO.001	0.001	0.001

TABLE 2



## GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH

The effect of man's environment on not only his physical health, but on his mental health and social well being can be readily recognised in many cases by classic symptoms, but the solution of the problems producing the symptoms can be extremely difficult. The mental anguish of unemployment, insecurity and social problems can lead to intolerance within a community, and an inability to solve relatively minor neighbours' disputes without recourse to official complaint.

It is the rule rather than the exception that in the majority of complaints made to the Department about neighbours' activities causing nuisance, there has been no prior discussion or communication on the problem between the parties concerned. The solution to most of these complaints lies not in statutory action, but in a little less selfishness, a little more tolerance and a modicum of commonsense; commodities which regrettably appear to be in short supply. One could advance all manner of reasons for this scarcity but it is easier to categorise and comment on the specific functions in respect of public health undertaken by the Department under the various headings set out below.

With all the resources of a welfare state, one still comes across the odd person of independent and eccentric disposition who refuses to acknowledge the system or to have regard to the norm expected by the neighbours. The condition of one particular house in the middle of a terrace was so detrimental to the general amenity of the area as to produce a series of complaints from nearby residents. The intransigent attitude of the elderly occupant who refused help from Social Services Officers and refused admission to the Environmental Health Officers to assess the internal condition of the property prompted referral to the Community Physician for assessment of her fitness to care for herself. He confirmed her physical capability to live alone, and the Department was left with no alternative but to seek a Court Order to secure entry to the property.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There appears to have been very little activity in respect of major capital schemes relating to the sewerage system within the City as indicated by the following comments from the City Engineer and Community Services Officer.

1. No capital works were executed during the year although the design of the St. Peter's F.W. Outfall Sewer from the A38 to Powick Reclamation Works was finalised and tenders invited for a start in March 1982.

2. Generally, the cuts in finance available for capital works have resulted in the further design on the North of the City Sewerage Scheme Stage 3 and Bath Road Surface Water Sewer being suspended.
3. Monitoring of both Barbourne Brook and Duck Brook are continuing to assess any pollution and the reduction that might be achieved in this direction if these schemes were implemented.
4. The revenue budget has only been increased in line with inflation but the additional costs of relaying various lengths of sewers following collapses at Barbourne Road, St. George's Lane South, Mill Street and adjacent to Red Hill Primary School have been met by the Water Authority in full.

Lack of resources for extending the sewerage system, which may mean little to the majority of our citizens, has considerably more concern for those 120 occupiers of premises still without mains drainage. The use of septic tank drainage in urban situations is fraught with difficulty and any new proposals involving this system of sewage disposal are very closely vetted.

There was a marked decrease in the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of sewer/drain blockages compared with 1980, and all complaints were resolved without recourse to formal action. However, there is still a general misunderstanding abroad that any drain below the ground is the responsibility of the Council to maintain and keep clear. The legal responsibility for maintenance of a drain serving an individual property and a private sewer (i.e. a combined drain serving properties constructed post 1936) rests with the owner of the property or properties connected thereto. The responsibility for maintenance of public sewers (which includes properties served by a combined drain constructed pre 1936) rests with the local authority as agent for Severn Trent Water Authority and in certain circumstances costs of maintenance are rechargeable on owners of properties served by the system.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two offensive trades (as defined in the Public Health Act 1936) now operating in the City. 1981 saw the closure of a long established fellmonger and leather merchant in Waterworks Road, to the obvious relief of residential occupiers of nearby property. The location of these trades by tradition appears to have been undertaken with a view to having the labour force living on the doorstep, a situation which is totally unacceptable to today's residents.



Several complaints were again received in respect of one of the remaining dealers who processes sheep skins in an industrial complex sited alongside residential property. The close juxta-position of industrial and domestic premises inevitably causes a degree of conflict, and when the industrial process is of an offensive nature, such conflict is virtually unsolvable. However, efforts to minimise nuisance and reduce complaints have extended to the service of a formal notice on the trader under the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969, resulting in a degree of improvement within the premises but very little reduction in the volume of complaint.

#### BATHING WATER

Having commented earlier on the monitoring of drinking water, it is no less important to keep a close watch on the quality and treatment of water used for bathing.

The City is situated on one of the country's major rivers, which is an obvious attraction for amenity use, but it was necessary to remind the general public that the temptation to plunge into its murky depths should be resisted despite the high temperatures we enjoyed in the summer of 1981. The two major factors which affect the river's suitability for bathing are (a) the poor bacteriological standard of the water, contaminated over nearly all its length with sewage effluent and animal matter and (b) the treachery of the strong currents which may not be discernible on the surface of the water making 'safe' bathing impossible. The advice must clearly be to swim in pools where proper treatment is carried out.

There are 13 such pools in the City, comprising the local authority pool at Sansome Walk, the Citizens' Pool at Lower Wick, the paddling pool at Gheluvelt Park, 8 school pools maintained by the Education Authority and two private school pools.

Swimming at the outdoor school pools was restricted due to the cold and cloudy weather experienced in the early part of the Summer. However, weekly visits and poolside checks were made during the operational season, which ironically terminates at a time when the weather is at its best.

In addition to poolside checks which are undertaken at all pools, routine monthly water samples are submitted for more detailed chemical and bacteriological examination to the County Analyst. A total of 130 visits were made by your Officers and 69 water samples were submitted for detailed analysis.

Results of analysis and poolside checks indicated a generally satisfactory situation at the majority of pools, but swimming was suspended on two occasions at local primary schools when evidence of inadequate treatment of the water was found.

The advice of the Department was sought when the water in a senior school pool turned pink overnight. Investigations revealed that potassium permanganate had been introduced, not as a sterilant, but as a prank by exhuberant pupils celebrating the end of term.

#### PEST CONTROL

##### a) Rats and Mice

Although the number of complaints at 494 was in line with the previous year, the number originating from commercial premises shows a decrease of some 25%. This has been a continuing trend in recent years and one suspects that as the level of complaints from domestic sources shows an increase, there is an element of under-reporting by commercial concerns. The charges levied for rodent control treatment of commercial premises compare favourably with those offered by private contractors, but it may well be that some concerns do not welcome too close a scrutiny of their establishments by a body responsible for enforcement of other legislation to which they may be subject.

The ratio of rat to mice complaints at 2 to 1 is possibly due more to the willingness of the public to take the trouble to complain about rats as opposed to mice, rather than the excess of the one over the other.

Apart from the damage of goods, food etc. caused by rodents, they can prove costly in other ways. The rat living naturally in the sewerage system breaks out through the merest defect often bringing earth down into the drain or sewer causing blockage problems in addition to undermining structures at ground level. The pedestrianised area of the High Street suffered somewhat from the burrowing activities of a colony of rats breaking out from the sewer and surfacing via the fancy grating at the base of a tree. A T.V. camera inserted into the sewer located the defect and enabled accurate excavation and repair to take place with the minimum of disturbance, but the cost was still in the order of £1,000. Similar rodent activity in the grounds of a primary school culminated in the relaying of a section of an old sewer at a cost of £5,000.

The climbing abilities of the rat were again demonstrated with roof spaces appearing to be particularly attractive, but the most adventurous of all was the solitary rat which turned up in the intensive care unit on the



third floor of a City hospital at 2 o'clock one morning. Despite the fact that the hospital authority rely on a private contractor for pest control purposes, they were not slow to seek the assistance of the Department on this occasion.

The constant war to control rodents is not only confined to dealing with complaints, but to the treatment of their natural habitat (the sewer and the river bank) as a matter of routine. The cost of sewer treatment is borne by Severn Trent Water Authority and an annual programme of treating some 600 manholes was achieved during the year.

Co-operation in dealing with rodent infestations is usually readily available from the public, but it is sometimes necessary to involve the legal powers contained in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to secure such co-operation. Formal action under the provisions of the Act was confined to the service of 3 statutory notices during the year requiring the removal of refuse accumulations offering harbourage for rodents.

b) Other Pests

Advice and guidance is given without charge in respect of a wide variety of pest complaints, some of which are without any particular public health significance. The majority of the 450 complaints dealt with under this heading related to a variety of insect pests, dominated by wasp nest complaints totalling 296. The treatment of wasp nests was undertaken on request at the standard charge of £6.00, except in the case of requests from senior citizens, or disabled people when the charge is waived.

Fleas made their customary presence felt as in previous years and it was noted that the majority of infestations could be directly attributed to the family cat or dog. For this reason complainants are advised to have their animals disinfested in addition to the treatment of the premises, which is undertaken by the Pest Officer. Bed bugs are still with us, although not generally producing the heavy infestations witnessed in bygone days. However, one particularly heavy infestation was found when a house became vacant on the death of an elderly tenant, necessitating extensive disinfestation before workmen would enter to carry out repairs prior to re-letting. Ironically, relatives of the deceased who had removed the best of the furniture before dis-infestation, left themselves open to infestation of their own property.

Another particularly distressing infestation of blow flies and larvae which had to be dealt with arose following the death of an elderly lady, whose body remained undiscovered for approximately two weeks during the hottest period of the year.

One hesitates to discuss domestic animals under this heading in view of the hyper-sensitive attitudes of certain sections of the general public in respect of pets. However, the transition from pet to pest can often take place as quickly and as easily as the addition of the 's'. On two occasions during the year complaints were received concerning colonies of cats which had become wild, were breeding, and creating nuisance in residential areas. In both cases well intentioned members of the public, not directly concerned with, or affected by nuisance on their own premises, were actively supporting the cats by providing food on a regular basis. Despite this apparent kindness the cat colonies (each containing about 30 cats) were generally poor, sickly and mangy.

The ingenuity and resourcefulness of our Dog Warden was brought into play to deal with one colony, and a successful trapping operation was mounted with the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. during a fortnight of early morning visits. The other colony was dealt with jointly by the Cat Protection League and the R.S.P.C.A. who arranged a culling and neutering exercise with the co-operation of the owner of the large garden which was used as a sanctuary by the cats.

c) Feral Pigeons

972 pigeons were trapped by our regular contractor from various locations within the central area of the City - a 20% increase compared with 1980. Studies carried out elsewhere have shown the feral pigeon to be a carrier of certain diseases transmissible to man, but the results of tests carried out on several birds trapped locally produced no evidence of psittacosis or salmonella - the main diseases associated with these birds. However, workers in the building trade, particularly those who may have to work on semi-derelict buildings, in roof spaces and clearing guttering, contaminated with pigeon droppings, should take precautions by wearing protective masks and gloves, and pre-dampening dried droppings prior to removal.

ANIMALS

a) Dog Warden Service

The demand for the services of the Dog Warden was found to be such that the hours of his contract were increased from 15 to 20 in April of this year, and his duties were officially extended to include the checking of licences. The existence of the service has been well publicised as was shown by the fact that 164 complaints of stray dogs were notified directly to the Department during the year. Apart from responding to complaints the Dog Warden makes regular routine patrols of housing estates and schools giving advice and assistance where necessary. His expertise in dealing with animals, proved



extremely useful in dealing with a particularly difficult cat problem which has already been described in some detail.

Details of strays dealt with during the year are set out below, and it was interesting to note that the number dealt with during August, when children are at home, was lower than any other month. This gives a clear indication that the family pet is pushed out onto the streets in many households when the other occupants leave for work or school. A great deal of interest about the service has been shown by children, and the opportunity has been taken whenever it presents itself to preach the gospel of responsible dog ownership.

The problem of dogs fouling footpaths, even when under the apparent control of the owner, remains with us despite publicity given in the local press particularly to incensed readers' letters on the anti-social activities of dog owners who seem oblivious to the problem.

The following local statistics relating to dogs are relevant to the period under review:-

i)	No. of Dog Licences issued at City Post Offices	..	..	4936
ii)	Revenue	..	..	£1850
iii)	No. strays dealt with by Dog Warden	..	..	152
iv)	Stray dogs dealt with as follows:-			
	a) Returned to owner	..	..	61
	b) Taken to kennels	..	..	91
v)	No. licences checked	..	..	42
b)	<u>Pet Animals Act 1961</u>			

This Act which regulates the sale of pet animals necessitated the issue of 10 annual licences to pet shops within the City. The fee for a licence is now £10. The standard of all licensed premises is satisfactory.

A condition of the licence requires a register to be kept of sales of all animals and this proved extremely useful on one occasion during the year when a suspect case of human psittacosis was linked with a 'sick parrot' purchased from a local pet shop. Detailed investigations were undertaken to trace all birds sold during the time the parrot was for sale, and the register enabled contact to be made quickly with purchasers. The sick parrot eventually expired, and tests on him and his owner (who survived) proved negative for psittacosis.

c) Riding Establishments Acts 1964-70

There is only one establishment in the City operating from premises in Old Northwick Lane. A veterinary examination of all horses and an inspection

of the premises is a pre-requisite of the issue of an annual licence under these Acts, and the above establishment was licensed after a satisfactory report was received. The licence fee is now £75.

d) Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

Five years after the introduction of this Act, we issued our first licence, an event which proved to be something of an anti-climax. The application related to a rhesus monkey named 'Oscar' who shares the home of a local citizen, albeit in a secure cage. The licence fee of £25 was obviously no deterrent to this animal lover and perhaps there is an indication here for the Government that realistic licence fees exercise an element of control without deterring those with a genuine interest in animals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The total number of notifications at 136 showed a considerable decrease on the previous year when measles was rife.

Diphtheria

There were no cases to report for the 30th successive year - a tribute to the power of immunisation which was first used in the City in 1935 at a time when the disease was at its most virulent.

Dysentery

Two cases only to report - both isolated incidents.

Food Poisoning

17 cases notified compared with 16 in the previous year, all of which were attributed to salmonella organisms.

7 of the cases were isolated incidents where evidence indicated that the disease had been contracted abroad.

One notification led to investigation being undertaken locally which identified the source of the disease as a restaurant in an English seaside resort. The local authority in whose area the restaurant was situated was notified and the premises were closed voluntarily when further cases were connected with meals taken therein.

A husband and wife who won a trip to Bangkok as a prize for the husband selling more frozen food than his colleagues, ended up with an unwelcome bonus in the form of salmonella of two different strains. The inconvenience and suffering was prolonged when the wife was excluded from her normal work as a food handler for some weeks until she ceased to excrete the organism.

It was interesting to note that there were no cases reported in connection with food prepared in the home, but one hesitates to draw any firm conclusions



from this when one considers the problem of under-reporting of all notifiable diseases.

#### Infective Jaundice

11 cases reported compared with 4 in 1980.

#### Measles

A sharp decrease to 45 cases compared with 244 in the previous year.

#### Meningitis

One case only reported but unusual in that the causative organism is more commonly associated with meningitis in pigs. The patient was a butchery worker who contracted the infection in the course of his work; the organism entering his bloodstream via a cut on his hand. Although he became critically ill he eventually recovered but was considered unfit to return to his former occupation.

#### Psittacosis

This infection, which is usually transmitted from psitticine birds (i.e. parrots, parakeets, etc.) infected one luckless citizen during the year, who endured a considerable period of ill health before her condition was properly diagnosed. There was no evidence of direct contact with birds in this case and despite extensive enquiries, the source of infection remained a mystery.

#### Scarlet Fever

This disease, the cause of considerable concern in bygone years, manifests itself in a much milder form these days and none of the 23 cases notified presented serious problems.

#### Respiratory Tuberculosis

An increase to 7 cases compared with 2 in the previous year.

#### Whooping Cough

30 cases notified showing an increase on the previous year in the order of 100%.

My sincere thanks are recorded to Dr. M. B. Skirrow, Consultant Microbiologist to the Worcester Royal Infirmary, and to Dr. A. K. Spence, District Community Physician for their advice and guidance on the investigation of infectious diseases.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

The need to ensure that the role of the Department and the services offered are made known to as wide a cross section of the general public as possible, is felt to be of paramount importance to ensure that public health

problems are stifled at an early stage or better still prevented. Whilst the problems of bygone years may have been eradicated those of a more sophisticated and technological society remain and with the increasingly complex bureaucracy which has emerged in recent years it is essential that publicity and education run parallel. The most effective way of imparting knowledge is obviously on a one-to-one basis, and this is achieved whenever possible by your officers during the course of the many routine visits they make throughout the year. During such visits the emphasis is placed on prevention, persuasion and protection - not prosecution. The effectiveness of this approach is demonstrated by the fact that legal proceedings were necessary on only 7 occasions during the year from a total of 9,834 inspections.

The dissemination of information and guidance on specific topics by the production of pamphlets, etc. continues, and a guidance note was produced on food hygiene requirements for organisers of parties associated with the Royal Wedding.

Formal talks and lectures were given on 29 occasions to some 478 people - a considerable reduction compared with the previous year. This, in no way reflects the demand for health education, but is indicative of the limitations of staff resources which had to be directed to deal with more urgent problems.

#### HOME SAFETY

As in previous years one has to report only minimal activity in the field of home safety due to lack of staff resources, although at one stage the prospect of utilising the services of the Council's Safety Officer offered real hopes of making some impact. However, his relatively brief sojourn in the environs of the City put paid to our hopes in that direction.

The importance of home safety was highlighted by the B.B.C. T.V. series of programmes presented by Jimmy Saville O.B.E. entitled "Play it Safe". Officers from the Department had the opportunity to see a preview of the series organised at County level and some input was made into publicising its screening.

Further publicity on this subject was limited to the annual distribution of literature and posters to schools and retail outlets on the subject of "firework safety" prior to November 5th. It is encouraging to note the further decrease in accidents associated with Guy Fawkes night compared with previous years.

## HOUSING

### SURVEY OF OLDER HOUSES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In order to provide more up to date information in connection with the Housing Strategy and Investment Programme, a further survey of houses constructed before 1919 was carried out during the year. The survey was based mainly on an external inspection, and followed the same techniques adopted in a previous survey four years ago.

The results of the survey show quite clearly that there has been a significant decline in the condition of these older houses, totalling almost 7,000, which represents one third of the private sector housing stock of the City.

There are at present 288 houses considered to be unfit for human habitation within the strict criteria of the Housing Act 1957. This figure represents an increase of 21% in the number of unfit houses revealed in the previous survey - in spite of the fact that 65 unfit houses have been dealt with in the interim period. The vast majority of these houses are either tenanted or owned and occupied by elderly persons who do not have the financial resources or the desire to renovate their properties.

1,532 houses were found to be in substantial disrepair, a figure which represents an increase of 32% in the number in the similar category four years ago. This increase in the number of houses falling into disrepair is a matter for concern, and it is essential that effective measures are taken to arrest the deterioration of the housing stock.

There are 770 sub-standard houses within the City, the majority of which still lack a bathroom.

Although this shows a 34% reduction in the same category four years ago, the rate has slowed down considerably during the past twelve months. Furthermore, with the current lack of investment in these houses, many of which are also in disrepair, there is a real danger that they will soon become unfit.

### RENOVATION

162 improvement grant applications were approved during the year which showed a 33% reduction on the number approved during 1980. At the same time the amount paid in grants was £452,438 which represented a 17% increase. This shows that it is costing considerably more to renovate fewer properties and there seems little doubt that this trend will continue and will be a significant factor in the battle to arrest the deterioration of the older



housing stock. The cut back in the capital allocation which meant that there were no funds available to pay discretionary grants or repair grants was regrettable.

A greater amount of national resources should be directed towards the renovation of those houses in need of rehabilitation, and more incentive given to landlords and elderly owner/occupiers. During the year eighteen properties subject to Closing Orders or Demolition Orders were satisfactorily renovated enabling the Orders to be revoked, and the houses to be re-occupied.

#### UNFIT HOUSING

In spite of the fact that the Department makes every effort to have houses renovated where possible, it was found necessary to make thirteen Closing Orders and five Demolition Orders against unfit properties during the year. Although the aim is to deal completely with the existing stock of unfit properties as soon as possible, it is apparent that there will always remain a certain number of unfit houses within the City due to the reluctance on the part of some elderly persons to leave their homes.

#### REHOUSING

The number of new housing units completed during the year was again very low - 122 in the private sector, 36 in the public sector and, for the second year in succession, nil by Housing Associations.

The figures for the rented sector once again reflect the totally inadequate capital allocation available for new build and throws serious doubts on the present system of allocation through the Housing Investment Programme which appears to be more a Government exercise in controlling the money supply, rather than allowing local authorities to respond to the housing needs in their districts. The fact that the miserly number of 56 represents the total of new units of accommodation provided for renting during the past two years must strengthen the case for a separate capital allocation for new build.

With the ever increasing number of families on the Housing Waiting List and the increasing number of elderly persons who should ideally be rehoused into sheltered accommodation, it would seem to be of paramount importance that more funds should be released to provide suitable types of public sector accommodation.

In the private sector, the emphasis seems to be on the provision of "low cost houses" and "starter homes" for young couples. Allowing for the fact that there is no doubt a genuine need for this type of housing, reservations must be expressed regarding the design and layout of some of the houses currently



being built in the City. With the demise of Parker 'Morris' standards of space, these houses resemble more than ever the "little boxes" criticism which has been levelled at them. Only time will tell whether these houses will withstand the rigours of our climate and the changes in our standards of living, and prove to be acceptable for our future generations in the twentieth century. Eleven families were rehoused from unfit houses, and two families found their own accommodation during the year.

#### LAND COMPENSATION ACT 1973

Home Loss payments totalling £2,637 were made under this enactment to nine families who were rehoused from unfit houses during the year.

#### HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The main efforts of the Department have been directed towards the provision of satisfactory means of escape from fire in the 260 houses which are in multiple occupation, and also from units of accommodation in high buildings above shops, offices, public houses, etc. Once again, the co-operation and valuable assistance of the Fire Prevention Officers of the Fire Brigade must be given full recognition.

Thirty notices were served during the year on the owners of properties requiring the provision of means of escape from fire. There is no doubt that the long awaited, and overdue extension of special grant to cover such works which was made mandatory under the Housing Act 1980 has been a considerable incentive to such owners to comply with these notices more readily. Problems have occurred in cases where the buildings are listed, particularly where external fire escapes are required, and it is true to state that we have not always seen eye to eye with our colleagues in the City Architect and Planning Officer's Department. Compromise cannot always be reached or indeed is desirable where safety is concerned.

#### GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

The lack of finance available through the capital allocation meant that no further environmental improvements could be carried out in either of the General Improvement Areas. Improvements to the Derby Road General Improvement Area are virtually complete, apart from re-surfacing the canal towpath, but there is still scope for additional improvements in the Arboretum General Improvement Area and it is hoped that it will be possible for these to be carried out in the foreseeable future.

There appears to be an interest by prospective purchasers of property in these areas and a certain amount of rehabilitation continues to be carried

out. However, as the results of the survey showed, although the number of sub-standard houses has been considerably reduced, the condition of many of the houses has deteriorated.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSE

The one registered common lodging house in the City, St. Paul's Hostel, Hillborough continues to justify its existence by the fact that all 36 beds are normally all occupied by persons who are only too grateful to have some shelter for the night.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

### NOISE

The subject of noise, its control and its contribution to ill health in the community not only exercised the attention of Environmental Health Officers in this country, but was recently considered in some depth by the World Health Organisation. W.H.O. not only reviewed the subject, but identified areas for future work. Their recommendations included the need to carry out further study in identifying the long term health effects of high level industrial noise and of lower level general environmental noise. The potential contribution of noise stress to general morbidity of the population, the ability of people to adapt to environmental noise, and the possibilities of noise-induced disease must, it is said, be established not only for the working populations, but also for the more vulnerable members of the population, including the elderly, pregnant women, the unwell and those generally under stress.

There is, no doubt, a need to understand better the way in which a particular quality and level of sound can become a nuisance, bearing in mind that we now have sophisticated equipment capable of measuring a wide range of noise indices. This equipment was put to the test on numerous occasions during the year to measure not only sources of complaint, but general background noise levels prior to consideration of a wide variety of planning applications.

The main means of statutory noise control available to the Department is the Control of Pollution Act 1974, which has its limitations in that certain sources of noise, particularly associated with traffic are not subject to its requirements. Having identified the means of statutory control, it is true to say that the majority of noise complaints are resolved without recourse to formal action. Furthermore, most complainants prefer an informal but rapid response which effects a solution to their problem, to lengthy but correct proceedings which take longer to achieve similar effect.

#### a) Complaints

A total of 53 complaints were received covering the usual sources of noise ranging from the over-ebullient early morning milkman to the equally enthusiastic ice cream salesman at the opposite end of the day. The level of complaint was virtually the same as the previous year, only the sources were different.



	Industrial	Commercial	Construction & demolition Works	Domestic	Other
No. Complaints Received	17	13	1	18	4
No. Complaints Substantiated	9	7	1	-	4
<u>REMEDIAL ACTION</u>					
1. Informal (Verbal)	4	2	-	18	2
2. Informal Notice	5	5	1	-	2
3. Formal Notice	-	-	-	-	-
4. Committee Warning	-	-	-	-	-
5. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 3

A total of 226 visits were made in respect of noise during the year. Of the 27 noise sources complained of relating to industrial and commercial activities, 21 were substantiated and were followed through to a successful conclusion informally.

The 18 complaints of domestic noise shows a considerable increase on the previous year. The reason for this increase is not clear although a whole generation of young people brought up on a diet of amplified pop music may well have reached the stage of home ownership or tenancy and found themselves living alongside older neighbours with quieter tastes. This may be too simplistic a view, but whatever the reason, domestic noise nuisance in the main can only be resolved by good neighbourliness. The standards of modern housing and the increasing use of lightweight materials offers very little by way of impediment of noise transmission between houses and this is obviously an area for further research.

Our policy in respect of inter-neighbour complaints when one household only is affected is restricted in the main to informal advice, which in particularly intransigent cases includes advice to the complainant on his or her rights under Section 59 of the Control of Pollution Act to seek an order in the Magistrates Court to control the nuisance. This course of action was

taken by a local householder during the year aggrieved by his neighbour's allegedly incessant car repairing activities on his house drive. The Magistrates made an order to restrain such activity, but in due course the situation was reversed when the person against whom the order had been made complained that he was suffering from noise being created by the original complainant! This case lends weight to our policy of limited intervention in disputes between individuals.

The shortage of certain amenities and the increased leisure time, albeit unwanted, by the young people of today has led to the creation of a noise problem which became an increasing source of complaint during 1981. The source referred to is the scrambling motor cycle with the high pitched engine noise which has appeared on several pieces of waste land on the West bank of the River Severn, being ridden with no little skill by young men of 16 to 18 years of age with ambitions to become the Evil Kneevil of St. John's. The practical problems of controlling this noise nuisance are many. Firstly catching the culprits, secondly ascertaining their correct names and addresses if caught and thirdly persuading owners of land used to maintain site security in the face of continued vandalism. The co-operation of the Police has been sought in this matter as Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 provides that "if without lawful authority a person drives a motor vehicle on to or upon any common land, moorland or other land of whatsoever description, not being land forming part of a road, or on any road being a footpath or bridleway, he shall be guilty of an offence."

In spite of our joint efforts the problem remains and will undoubtedly do so until the activity is replaced by something more exciting and hopefully less noisy!

The complexity of noise and the effect of different frequencies was demonstrated when complaints were received in respect of a particularly high pitched noise emanating from a gas pumping station on the edge of a City housing estate. The noise itself was of comparatively low level when recorded on the sound level meter, but the particular frequency caused considerable distress to the complainant's dog in the middle of the night and the sounds he produced were loud and long. British Gas readily co-operated with the Department and modified the plant and their pumping schedules.

b) Construction Sites

There is a procedure under the provisions of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 for contractors and developers to seek the prior approval of the local authority on any building contract as to the measures needed to ensure

the noise emitted from works of construction are within agreed limits. We have not found it necessary to adopt the formal procedure of prior consent but we do ensure that contractors are made aware of their responsibilities by the issue of guidance notes at the planning stage. This procedure has worked reasonably well in respect of building sites but we have experienced occasional problems associated with excavations on the public highways.

Building operations in the open are inherently noisy, but are tolerated to a greater extent by the public, if reasonable hours are worked, and the operation is completed expeditiously. Conflict can arise when unforeseen problems necessitate weekend work, but conditions imposed prior to commencement of any contract seek to prevent work at unreasonable hours.

c) Planning

Our newly acquired noise monitoring equipment has proved invaluable in environmental monitoring of ambient noise levels in connection, particularly with proposed development of both industrial and residential sites within the City. Prevention is undoubtedly better than cure and our aim is to prevent the kind of problems arising in the future that we are having to face in several instances today. Lack of planning controls in bygone years has given rise to the existence of non-conforming users, often noise producing, in predominantly residential locations, resulting in inevitable nuisance.

The imposition of noise conditions together with control of working hours at the planning stage has served not only as an effective means of control but has given developers and industrialists a framework for their design layout, plant disposition and work schedules.

AIR POLLUTION

The control of air pollution in Great Britain is essentially a team effort involving local authorities, the Health and Safety Executive and Police Authorities (in respect of road traffic emissions).

The principal legislation enforced by Local Authorities in Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland) is contained in the Clean Air Acts, 1956 and 1968, but some of the 'nuisance' provisions of the Public Health Act 1936, extended and amended by the Public Health Act 1961 and the Public Health (Recurring Nuisance) Act 1969, are applicable in specified circumstances. Part IV of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, further extends and modifies Clean Air legislation in several ways.

The Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 imposes a general duty on the person having control of a prescribed class of premises to use the best practicable means of preventing the emission into the atmosphere of noxious or offensive substances and the rendering harmless and inoffensive such



substances as may be so emitted.

The control of "noxious or offensive gases" from some 60 different classes of works registrable under the provisions of the Alkali &c. Works Regulation Act 1906 and the Alkali &c. Works Order 1966 is exercised by the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive.

Action may also be taken under Common Law procedure by anyone who suffers nuisance from air pollution, and in this way it may be possible to secure damages and/or obtain an injunction.

The debate on lead in the environment started to gather momentum during the latter part of the year and we continued to monitor for atmospheric lead in several heavily trafficked areas of the City. Our results assumed more significance when the Government announced acceptance of the E.E.C. standard of 2 microgrammes per cubic metre as the upper limit for airborne lead. Levels in excess of this limit were recorded in the Bull Ring area of St. John's. in Bridge Street and at the junction of Castle Street and The Tything. These high levels are directly attributable to motor vehicle pollution and in recognition of the part that lead in petrol plays in polluting, announced a phased reduction of lead content of petrol from 0.4 grammes per litre to 0.15 grammes per litre by 1985. These proposals will obviously be beneficial but may not satisfy the general public who are being made aware of various studies which have indicated adverse effects of relatively low lead levels on young children. Bearing this in mind we hope to extend our normal monitoring to include blood lead level surveys of children living and attending school in the more heavily polluted areas locally to ascertain if there is a direct correlation between atmosphere and blood lead levels.

a) Complaints

The level of complaint in respect of a wide variety of sources remained much the same as the previous year, and apart from a variety of smell nuisances, garden bonfires, as usual, topped the list. One can understand the occasional nuisance being created by an industrial or commercial operation, but the anti-social activity of pyro-manic gardeners who can be seen in trance-like state watching smoke billowing out of a heap of green garden refuse, is beyond my comprehension. When taken to task the offender is always quick to point out that neighbours regularly do the same thing. Our policy of informal action in individual complaints ensures that our resources are concentrated in dealing formally with those who create nuisance to the public in general ways over a wider area.

The table below categorises the complaints and details remedial action:-

	Industrial	Commercial	Demolition or Building Operations	Domestic Garden Bonfires Etc.	Other
No. Complaints Received	* 27	7	2	16	13
No. Complaints Substantiated	6	6	2	16	8
<u>Remedial Action</u>					
1. Informal (Verbal)	2	2	1	-	6
2. Informal Notice	3	4	1	16	2
3. Formal Notice	1	-	-	-	-
4. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-

\* 21 of which relate to one premises

TABLE 4

A total of 1087 visits were recorded in connection with Clean Air legislation and the monitoring activities of the Department.

The smell of cooking food, as we all know, can be an extremely pleasant experience, but like everything, can become a considerable nuisance when it becomes prolonged or excessive. The Englishman's traditional craving for fish and chips is alright in its place, e.g. Majorca or Blackpool but not within yards of a particularly sensitive historical building, within the grounds of which a 'Garden of Fragrance' had been created. The offending fish and chip shop in this instance was persuaded to ventilate the cooking smells via a charcoal filter in order to allow the more delicate aromas of the garden to be enjoyed.

Another case of smell nuisance which received world wide publicity saw a reversal of the above situation when various flower based perfumes were sprayed into the atmosphere to mask the smell of silage on a farm in Lower Wick. The novelty of the system which is triggered off when the prevailing winds carry the smell towards the City encouraged several national newspapers to carry prominent articles on the topic and the farmer was quoted in the Guardian "When I was down in the town one day I realised you could smell it

at the Guildhall. It was very embarrassing and I had one or two complaints."

Our ability to monitor for sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere as part of the traditional measurement of pollution arising out of combustion of fossil fuels proved useful in investigating a complaint of sulphur fumes allegedly emanating from a specialist metal casting unit. The injection of sulphur dioxide gas as part of the metal hardening process was not disputed, but the level of discharge to atmosphere was in doubt until monitoring indicated no cause for concern.

A more sombre source of complaint during the year related to visible emissions of smoke and fumes from the chimney at the Council's Crematorium in Astwood Cemetery. Whilst the emissions could in no way be described as excessive in terms of Clean Air legislation, it is nonetheless a sensitive issue, and steps to eliminate a recurrence are well in hand including the installation of new plant.

#### b) Domestic Pollution

The City of Worcester No. 1 Smoke Control Order covering the Arboretum area was formally confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment in February some 10 months after submission by the Council for confirmation. The Order progressed well from the start and the residents of the area took advantage of the 70% conversion grants, which were increased to 100% in certain hardship cases by the Council. Despite some initial reservations, the residents in the main have found considerable benefit in using fuel more efficiently, and even the sole official objector to the Order, availed herself of grant aid towards a gas fire.

Towards the end of the year the Council authorised work to commence on processing Area No. 2 covering the South West quadrant of the City, i.e. St. John's to Lower Wick. The need to seek Department of the Environment confirmation of this area is not now required as the result of procedural changes and it is hoped to make more rapid progress than was the case with Area No. 1.

Our regular routine monitoring of smoke and SO<sub>2</sub> continued throughout the year in the City Centre and at Warndon. The results of this monitoring are shown at figure 2, where it can be seen that levels rose considerably towards the end of the year (five times the Summer level) as the severe Winter began to bite, and the combustion of fossil fuels increased dramatically.

In dealing with our domestic smoke control programme we have been impressed by the co-operation we have had from all of the major fuel suppliers (gas, electricity and solid fuel) who have been ever willing to give advice to



MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE

— SMOKE  
..... SO<sub>2</sub>

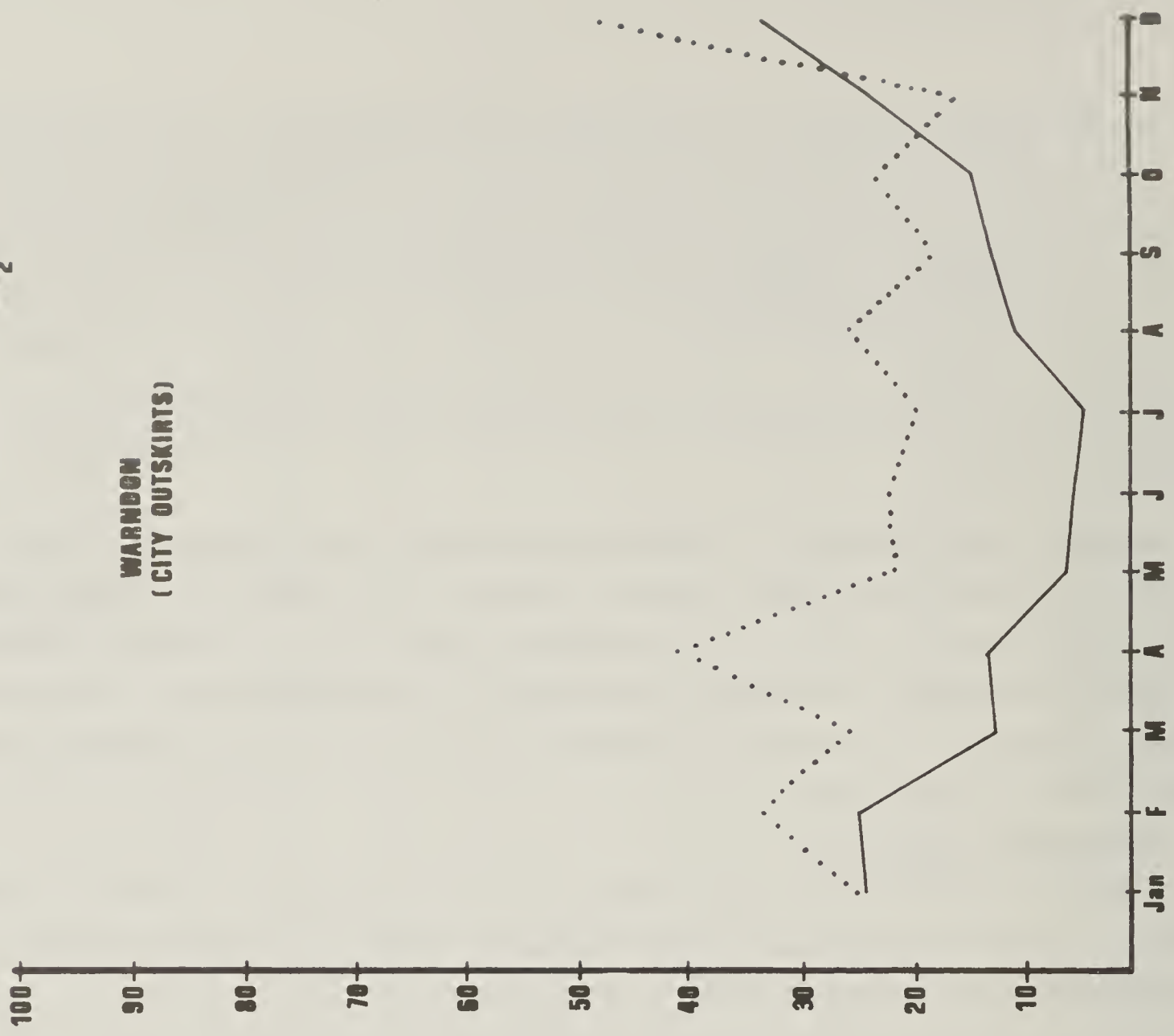
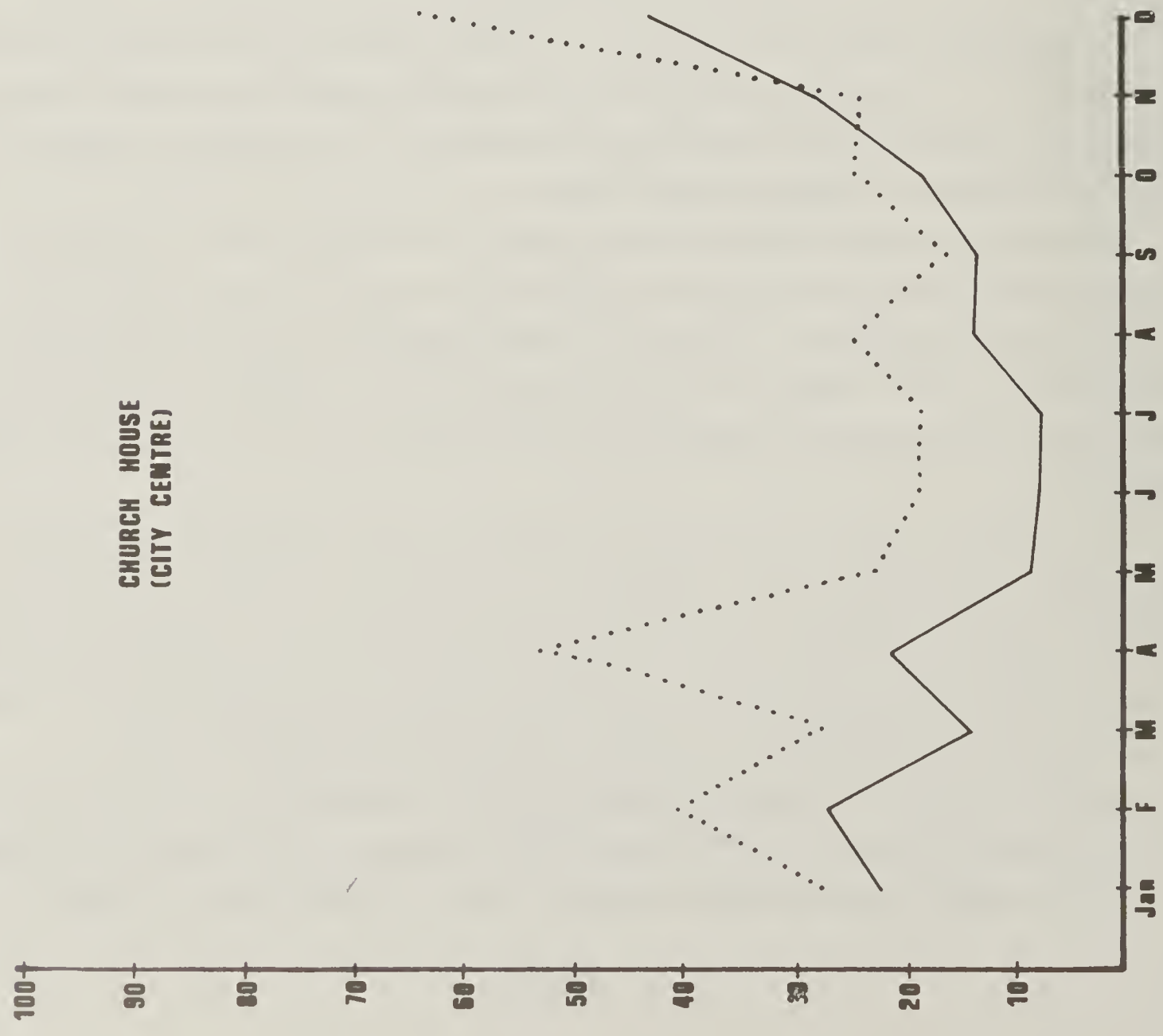


FIG 2

consumers affected by the Smoke Control Order.

c) Approvals

Under the provisions of the Clean Air Acts 1956/68 the occupiers of commercial and industrial premises installing new furnace or boiler plant are required to seek the local authority's approval. The consideration of new proposals involves a critical assessment of estimated emissions to atmosphere from the particular plant.

A total of seven applications for the approval of plant and associated chimney stack heights were considered during the year, all of which were approved with the exception of one in respect of incineration plant at a local hospital. This particular application sought exemption from a statutory requirement that grit and dust arrestment plant should be provided. The Council considered that in view of the wide range of material likely to be incinerated at the hospital and in view of previous problems associated with existing plant, an exemption was not appropriate. However, they did agree to review the position after the plant had been commissioned and the results of test measurements of grit and dust were to hand.

LAND POLLUTION

The irresponsible dumping of rubbish in hedgerows and lay-bys around the City outskirts still remains the most obvious example of land pollution and despite the availability of Civic Amenity sites and the free collection service offered for bulky items of domestic refuse, also remains the most intractable. The scarcity of resources does not permit regular routine clearance and maintenance of waste land, grass verges, etc. nor does it allow for policing of the areas to bring the offending litter louts before the courts.

From time to time, the nature of waste dumped gives even greater cause for concern when it is found to contain toxic substances, and on three occasions during the year it was necessary to arrange the collection and disposal of toxic waste found on City sites, in conjunction with the County Council's Waste Disposal Officer. The first case concerned a small amount of white asbestos fibre dumped on land frequented by children in St. John's; the second concerned a drum of cyanide waste left in an unsecured vacant factory unit in the City centre and the third was an accumulation of ash contaminated with lead chromate dumped on a central car park site. The ash originated from a nearby sheepskin coat and glove manufacturing premises, where trimmings dressed with chemicals were incinerated for disposal purposes. Control of this kind of activity rests in the main with the County Council who are charged

with the duty under the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

Guidelines on the redevelopment of contaminated land produced by the Department of the Environment proved useful when considering proposals for the erection of housing accommodation on a riverside site formerly occupied by a scrap metal merchant. Samples of site top soil revealed unacceptably high levels of cadmium, sufficient to warrant excavation and removal of top soil to a depth of one metre prior to commencement of building operations.

It is obviously necessary to have some detailed knowledge of site history prior to commitment to development proposals and with suitable land becoming scarcer, attention is turning to sites infilled with a variety of waste over previous years. Whilst it may be feasible to develop these sites, it can be costly and necessitates detailed core sampling and analyses of sites at varying levels and over a wide area. These steps were recommended in respect of preliminary suggestions for use of the former Diglis Tip site for building land, and arrangements were put in hand to arrange a suitable survey.



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

### HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC. ACT 1974

The need to protect the health and safety of the working population is now generally accepted and the legislative requirements are well known to both employers and employed through the advice and guidance of various agencies. However, the interpretation of legal requirements can vary considerably, depending largely on whether you have responsibility as a protector or whether you are seeking protection for your own health and safety. In order to ensure that a balance is struck and that legislation is fairly and equitably interpreted the Authority and its Officers made themselves readily available to give advice and guidance whenever it was needed during the past year. The amount of time spent in giving such advice was considerable and there is no accurate means of quantifying the benefit derived, apart maybe, from comparing the number of times formal action was necessary to solve problems with the total number of visits made under the Act.

Your appointed inspectors carried out a total of 1,075 visits resulting in the service of 188 informal notices and 3 formal improvement notices. Two of the formal notices related to unacceptable levels of dust and inadequate safety control of a cardboard waste disposal system in a local warehouse and the other concerned inadequate sanitary facilities to a tenement shopping unit.

The number of informal notices served shows a considerable decrease on the previous year which tends to indicate a general improvement in working conditions in premises where the Act is enforced by the local authority.

The number of guidance notes and information circulars on occupational health received from the Health and Safety Commission assumed confetti proportions, and the time taken to digest the contents, let alone action their suggestions, would have needed considerably more staff than we could spare. However, in addition to investigating complaints and accidents and carrying out routine inspections, several surveys were undertaken of specific problem areas highlighted by the Health and Safety Commission. These surveys included:-

- i) Increasing use of ultra-violet light sunbeds in commercial premises, where safety standards were found to be somewhat lax.
- ii) The standard of hygiene of ear piercing services which appear to be available in almost every multiple store in the City.
- iii) City wide check of coin operated launderettes with particular emphasis on safety of interlocks on loading apertures to washing machines and dryers.
- iv) A search for suspect camping gas cartridges which had been declared faulty due to corrosion. Fortunately none were found in the City.

## THE NOTIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES REGULATIONS 1980

These regulations came into force at the beginning of the year and were designed to overcome the problem of under-reporting of accidents which was apparent under previous legislative requirements. In addition to ensuring notification of accidents to people at work, the regulations extend the notification procedure to members of the public involved in accidents arising out of work activities. From notifications received during the year, it would appear that the desired effect had been achieved with an increase in the order of 40% compared with the previous year.

### ACCIDENTS

During 1981 a total of 63 accidents were reported, 31 of which were considered to warrant further detailed investigation. There appears to be a common view amongst management that the majority of 'minor' injuries which afflict the workforce from time to time have no connection whatsoever with their duties as employees. However, there are injuries which can be genuinely attributed to working practices and one which raised several questions involved the improper use of a caustic cleaning solution by a young man of low intellect. Despite having been carefully shown how to use the solution in diluted form, he eventually used it in so concentrated a form as to cause severe burns to his legs when he accidentally spilled it.

The only accident involving dangerous machinery was ironically attributed to the safety guard of a potato packing machine, which was being removed perfectly legitimately for maintenance purposes and dropped onto the foot of the operative causing severe bruising.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act continues in force as the main relevant statutory provision under the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 enforced by the local authority. Whilst this latter Act deals with generalities, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is more specific, particularly in respect of standards of welfare provision in workplaces.

A total of 59 new premises registered with the local authority during the year under the provisions of the Act, bringing the total of premises for which the local authority has enforcement responsibility to 1639.

### SHOPS ACTS 1950-65

The main focus of attention during the year was, as ever, the Sunday Trading provisions of the Act, and the pros and cons of the issue were brought into the public arena when a local garden centre was prosecuted. The prosecution

arose after complaints had been made by other local traders, and despite the pleas of the defendant that similar premises operated without any problem in other parts of the County, he was convicted and fined a total of £25.

The investigation of complaints and the dissemination of advice and guidance on all aspects of the Acts necessitated 118 visits during the year.



## FOOD SAFETY AND HYGIENE

### GENERAL FOOD INSPECTION

The amount of food found to be unfit on inspection at retail, wholesale and storage premises was 13.08 tons. Whilst this figure indicates a downward trend in general terms compared with previous years, it is alarming to note an increase in the order of 90% in the amount of food rendered unfit by reason of refrigeration failures. Whilst the loss of food due to refrigeration problems is disturbing, it is far safer to suffer the loss than risk refreezing defrosted food. One can envisage insurance premiums for fridge contents increasing, but one hopes that the introduction of "no claims" bonuses will not arise.

Apart from routine examinations of foodstuffs, we appear to be responding on a far greater scale than before to Food Hazard Warnings issued by the Department of Health and Social Security mainly in respect of foods imported from abroad. To facilitate early warning of these hazards, the Department acts as a first line reception point from the Ministry, and alerts the other districts in the County. The problem of identifying the location of any suspect food is largely a matter of routine, but the action advised once the food is located appears to be somewhat suspect when reliance is invariably placed on traders to ensure that it is withdrawn from circulation. The instructions issued by the Department of Health and Social Security are not always clear-cut and it is easy to see how certain suspect foods ultimately find their way back onto the market, possibly years after supposed withdrawal.

### EXPORTED FOODSTUFFS

Sad to relate that the one local food manufacturer with outlets abroad did not avail himself of our services to issue export certificates on any occasion during the year.

### IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS

Notifications of unexamined containers of foodstuffs consigned to local depots were received at regular intervals during the year and the type and quantity of these foods is detailed below. The onus for inspection of this food is placed on the receiving authority and all notifications are acted upon immediately.

Additional control of imported foodstuffs is exercised to a limited extent by selective sampling of items at retail outlets. Samples of Algerian and Iraqi dates on sale in the City were found to be so contaminated with insect larvae as to be unfit for consumption. Steps were taken to condemn consignments

in two local supermarkets and similarly branded dates were withdrawn from sale at 218 other retail outlets throughout the country. This occurrence calls into question the level of inspection of foods at the port of entry, a matter which has been taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Laxity in dealing with unfit imported cans of grapefruit juice identified some four years previously at Southampton presented problems locally when the staff of a local transport company availed themselves of a cheap offer from their Bristol Branch, and got more than they bargained for. How the cans (which should have been destroyed because of high lead and tin content in the juice) found their way to Bristol remains a mystery. The symptoms produced from consumption of the fruit juice included sickness and diarrhoea, prolonged in some cases as the unsuspecting consumer continued to drink it over a period of time.

The amount of food imported was less than the previous year and the quality was generally satisfactory. The following foods were examined during the year.

4130 quarters and joints of beef	50.7 tons
Beef and Lamb Offal	10.63 tons
400 Bags Rice Chillies	8.6 tons

#### MILK SAMPLING

Sampling of pasteurised milk was very much reduced compared with the previous year and only four samples were submitted for routine bacteriological examination. All of the samples satisfied the prescribed tests for efficient pasteurisation and post process contamination; an indication of the good hygiene standards in the local dairy industry.

Although the retailing of raw cows' milk is no longer carried out in the City, samples of milk are taken at farms prior to heat treatment and checks undertaken to determine the presence of brucella or salmonella organisms, or antibiotics. Nine samples of raw milk were checked and all proved satisfactory.

The consumption of goats milk appears to be on the increase and it is sold largely in untreated condition. The legislation controlling production, treatment and sale of cows' milk is quite extensive but it does not extend to milk from goats. There is an obvious need for more effective control of the sale of this product and there would appear to be moves afoot for the matter to be considered by the Government. One sample only of goats' milk was examined during the year and this proved to be satisfactory bacteriologically.

Details of sampling and licensed milk suppliers are set out in Appendix 7.

#### ICE CREAM

Of 39 samples of ice cream examined, 12 failed to satisfy the standard reduction test for bacteriological quality. The problem of failure is related to either unhygienic production or unsatisfactory storage. Several failures were attributed to unsatisfactory manufacturing of soft ice cream in a local restaurant where despite advice and guidance, the product could not meet the required standard and production ultimately ceased. Several failures were found in cafe locations where temperature control of freezer cabinets left a great deal to be desired. There appears to be a lack of knowledge on correct storage temperatures of ice cream and a certain ignorance of the legal requirement, that ice cream which has risen above a temperature of 28°F must be subjected to repasteurisation before sale. A clear indication that ice cream has been re-frozen after a rise in temperature is the presence of ice crystals in the product.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Resources did not permit more than a token programme of bacteriological examination of foods this year which is a cause for concern.

A sampling programme under this heading is aimed at monitoring standards of hygienic handling of foodstuffs in restaurants particularly, where food is retailed for immediate consumption. This year a mere 24 food samples and 10 swabs of food equipment were submitted to the Worcester Royal Infirmary, Food Hygiene Laboratory for examination. Cream and cream confectionery claimed most of the attention and the majority of samples were obtained from bakers' shops and restaurants. High bacteriological counts were indicative of unsatisfactory storage, with a failure to make proper use of refrigeration yet again in evidence. Fourteen samples of a wide variety of foodstuffs were submitted for bacteriological analysis after complaints of suspect food poisoning from consumers, but happily none were found to be implicated.



Details of samples and swabs submitted for bacteriological examination are set out in table 5 below.

FOOD SAMPLES AND SWABS

FOODSTUFFS	Results of Bacteriological Sampling				
	No. Taken	E. Coli	Salmonella	Coliform Bacteria	High Plate Count
Food Poisoning Investigation	14	-	-	-	-
Fresh Cream	8	-	-	-	3
Synthetic Cream	4	-	-	-	1
Cream Confection	5	-	-	-	3
Ice Cream Mix	5	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2	-	-	-	-
SWABS					
Food/Equipment and Surfaces	10	-	-	-	-
	48	-	-	-	7

TABLE 5

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

A total of 51 samples of foodstuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis during the year and all related to food complaints or queries.

We had the usual allegation that meat in a take-away meal was not chicken but something far more sinister - as usual analysis confirmed it was chicken. A sample of beef which appeared to have seen better days was thought to be horse flesh but was found to be genuine. Samples of cartoned orange juice from a branch supermarket were submitted for analysis following claims that certain foodstuffs had been deliberately contaminated with weedkiller at another branch in the South of England. All samples were fortunately satisfactory. Pieces of glass in beef brisket turned out to be polyphosphate crystals which can occur naturally as a result of curing of the meat.

The support of the County Analyst and his staff was, as ever, readily

available throughout the year, and their advice and guidance is invaluable when dealing with the complexities of food and its chemical composition.

#### FOOD COMPLAINTS

The number of food complaints at 73 was almost the same as last year, and the distribution of complaints as outlined in table 6 follows the usual pattern as did the course of action following the complaints. All were subject to detailed inspection, which is extremely time consuming, involving analysis in many cases. The Committee authorised legal proceedings in one case and issued formal warnings in five others. The remaining cases were resolved informally either because the complainant was reluctant to appear in Court, the evidence to substantiate formal action was weak, or there was no evidence of neglect on the part of the supplier.

This year's sample of complaints presents a very pedestrian picture compared with other years. We appear to have had more than our fair share of mouldy sausage rolls; insects have appeared in their usual numbers in an assortment of canned goods and bits of pieces of foreign matter have been identified as being naturally associated with the food complained of.

#### ANALYSIS OF FOOD COMPLAINTS 1981

Type of Food	Extraneous Matter	Unfit	Out of Condition	Mouldy
<u>FRESH FOOD</u>				
Fish	1	3	2	-
Fruit & Vegetables	1	-	2	-
Meat	1	6	5	-
Milk	3	-	-	-
<u>MANUFACTURED FOOD</u>				
Bread & Flour Confectionery	7	-	-	1
Fruit & Vegetables (frozen)	2	1	1	-
Fruit & Vegetables (canned)	3	4	1	1
Meat & Fish Products (frozen)	2	1	-	-
Meat & Fish Products (other process)	6	4	2	4
Milk Products	1	-	1	-
Sugar Confectionery	3	1	-	-
Beer	1	-	-	-
Soft Drinks	1	1	-	-
	32	21	14	6

TABLE 6

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS - FOOD COMPLAINTS

1. A national food distribution company was prosecuted in the local Magistrates Court for selling a jar of marmalade containing a piece of glass. A guilty plea was entered and a fine of £50.00 was imposed.
2. A local dairy company pleaded guilty to selling milk in a dirty bottle and was fined £50 in the local Magistrates Court.

## FOOD HYGIENE

Inspections of premises, stalls and vehicles under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were undertaken at a slightly lower level than the previous year but with the emphasis again on personal hygiene and good working practices. It is relatively simple to ensure that food premises comply with the structural requirements of the Regulations, but extremely difficult to ensure that standards of food handling are maintained, without the regular co-operation of all personnel engaged in the food trade. Such co-operation can only be encouraged and not co-erced, although it is necessary on rare occasions to take formal action against those who persistently fail to meet even the most rudimentary standards.

Whilst inspections were generally less than the previous year, they were undertaken at a higher level in one particular area. This area was the licensed trade where visits to clubs and public houses are undertaken in conjunction with the Licensing Justices. These joint visits have proved extremely beneficial in raising standards within the licensed trade which seems to be extremely bouyant judging by the number of wine bars appearing - despite the general recession.

The demise of the specialist food shop at the hands of the general store seems sadly to be continuing, creating certain problems of cross contamination when shop assistants are required to handle a wider range of both cooked and raw foods, and other miscellaneous articles.

## FOOD HYGIENE - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1. The proprietor of a City Centre banqueting suite was convicted on 12 counts under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 (concerned with general cleanliness) and was fined a total of £360.
2. A county trader operating a mobile bread vehicle in the City was prosecuted for six contraventions of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966. He received a conditional discharge for five offences relating to cleanliness of the vehicle and was fined £10 for smoking whilst handling open food.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

#### (a) Vehicles and Drivers

Hackney carriages licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Hackney carriages mechanically tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Meters checked and sealed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Private hire vehicles licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Private hire vehicles mechanically tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Drivers Licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Day checks on ranks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98

25 potential drivers were tested and failed due to lack of local knowledge.

15 enquiries regarding licences were not pursued due to lack of driving experience or general unsuitability.

#### (b) Fares

During 1981 an application for a fare increase by the Worcester Taxi Owners' Association was received, this was due to increased running costs and especially the increase on the price of petrol from £1.33 a gallon in February 1981 to £1.70 a gallon in September, 1981.

This application was approved by the Authority and came into force in November, 1981.

#### (c) Legal Proceedings

1. A hackney carriage owner/driver who was plying for hire on the Foregate Street rank in an unlicensed vehicle was prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court and upon conviction was fined £10.
2. The Environment and Traffic Committee refused to grant the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence to a 77 year old applicant, who subsequently appealed against the refusal to the City Magistrates' Court. The applicant, with supportive evidence from his medical practitioner had his appeal upheld and his licence remained operative.

## MARKETS

#### (a) Outdoor Retail Market

The proposal to relocate this market from its site in Angel Street into the Cornmarket was progressed during the year and despite initial opposition from traders the move took place in November. The majority of traders, despite reservations, decided to accept relocation even at the increased rent level of some 30% to £10 per stall per day.

The new market comprised 40 stalls initially and space for three mobile traders. The total daily income was £475, which compared very favourably with the income from the Angel Street site of £207 per day. It was obvious in the early weeks of operation that the new market was going to be popular and it demonstrated the potential for future expansion of markets activity within the City.

(b) The Market Hall, The Shambles

In contrast to the open market, this market operated for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  days per week and brought in a weekly income of £563 - a situation which raised questions on the financial viability of the operation and levels of rent for such a prime shopping location.

There are 26 stalls under cover in the hall, 12 of which sell foodstuffs and tenancy changes occurred on only 3 occasions during the year.

LAND CHARGES

2621 enquiries were dealt with by the Department under the requirements of the Land Charges Act. The submission of searches by prospective purchasers of properties not only provides a measure of protection to them, but invariably ensures that the vendors carry out any statutorily required works before placing the property on the market.

EXAMINATION OF PLANS

A total of 1651 plans of proposed new developments or alterations to buildings were examined during the year. This figure shows a considerable increase in the order of some 30% on the previous year and placed a considerable strain on the District Environmental Health Officers who have to vet them. Nonetheless the opportunity to examine plans submitted at an early stage is essential to ensure that proposed schemes satisfy the requirements of legislation administered by the Department.

CREMATIONS AND BURIALS UNDER NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

One cremation and two burials were arranged by my Department during the year. Two of the deceased had no known kin to undertake this task, while the third had an adopted daughter whose whereabouts could not be established, therefore obligating the local authority to make suitable arrangements.

It is somewhat sad to relate that two of the deceased were relatively young to middle aged unemployed males, aged 43 years and 54 years respectively. The body of the former was recovered from the Worcester - Birmingham canal and the latter died from cerebral haemorrhage and hypertension. One cannot help speculating whether these deaths were hastened as a consequence of the

pressures brought about by today's high speed living, together with their lack of employment.

By contrast the third person was an 84 year old female who died from ventricular failure and senile arteriosclerosis. She was cremated in accordance with a specific request she had made to a close friend, more than sufficient funds having been left to cover the cost.

The average cost of a state funeral is now approximately £132 compared with £57 six years ago, an increase of more than 131%, although the Death Grant has remained at £30.

Wherever possible burial costs borne by the Authority are recovered from the deceased person's estate but normally no charge is made for recovery of my Department's administrative costs which, on occasions can be quite significant.

Each case brings about its own particular administrative problems and generally speaking no two cases are alike. For example, apart from the recurring procedure of obtaining all relevant particulars of the deceased, registering the death and making arrangements for the funeral with the Undertaker, there follow enquiries into the assets, liabilities and possessions of the deceased and making necessary arrangements for disposal thereof. This can be a particularly involved and lengthy operation and often gives rise to a flood of correspondence with the Treasury Solicitor, Banks, insurance companies, solicitors, etc., which can continue, from past experience, for anything up to two years before finally being resolved.



APPENDIX 1

RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Public Health Acts 1936 to 1961

Drainage and sanitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	382
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	565
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Disinfestation and Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Water - mains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Water - swimming pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Water - miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	219
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
															<u>1,578</u>

Housing Acts 1957 to 1974

Individual Unfit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	390
Houses in Multi-Occupation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	248
Improvement Areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Compulsory Improvement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Housing Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,181
Survey Pre-1919 Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,553
															<u>3,561</u>

Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974

General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	402
Accident Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Other Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	624
															<u>1,075</u>

Shops Acts 1950 to 1965

General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	118
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Food and Drugs Act 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations .. .. .	808
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regs. .. .. .	43
Food Examinations .. .. .	200
Food Complaints .. .. .	122
Food Poisoning .. .. .	45
Meat Inspection Regulations .. .. .	7
Milk and Dairies Regulations etc. .. .. .	15
Milk Sampling .. .. .	20
Ice Cream Sampling .. .. .	32
Imported Food Regulations .. .. .	39
Miscellaneous .. .. .	39
	<hr/>
	1,370

Clean Air Acts 1956 to 1968

General Inspections and Observations .. .. .	169
Smoke Control Areas .. .. .	918
	<hr/>
	1,087

Control of Pollution Act 1974Noise

Industrial .. .. .	61
Commercial .. .. .	66
Demolition and Construction Sites .. .. .	19
Domestic .. .. .	16
Planning Application .. .. .	32
Survey .. .. .	12

Water

Water Courses .. .. .	12
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Waste Disposal

General .. .. .	8
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Miscellaneous

Inspections .. .. .	19
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245

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Inspections .. .. . 208

Pet Animals Act 1951

Inspections .. .. . 24

Riding Establishments Act 1964

Inspections .. .. . 2

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Inspections .. .. . 2

Worcester Corporation Act 1951

Hairdressers .. .. . 24

Physiotherapy Premises etc. .. .. . 15

39

General

Special Visits .. .. . 127

Court Attendance .. .. . 17

Lectures .. .. . 31

Registration Licensing .. .. . 105

280

Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

Vehicle Inspections .. .. . 98

Meter Inspection .. .. . 17

General Inspections .. .. . 59

174

Markets

Retail .. .. . 133

General .. .. . 56

189



# DETAILS OF NOTICES SERVED

## Number of Informal Notices

Re: Clean Air Act .. .. .	80
Re: Council House Defects .. .. .	13
Re: Food Hygiene .. .. .	149
Re: Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 .. .. .	188
Re: Houses in Multi-Occupation .. .. .	169
Re: Housing Defects .. .. .	106
Re: Infectious Diseases .. .. .	12
Re: Miscellaneous Nuisances .. .. .	377
Re: Noise .. .. .	66
Re: Shops Act 1950 .. .. .	14

## Number of Statutory Notices Served

Public Health Act 1936, Section 39 (drainage) .. .. .	6
Section 60 (Fire precautions) .. .. .	12
Section 93 (Nuisances) .. .. .	6
Public Health Act 1961, Section 26 (Defective premises) .. .. .	1
Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969 .. .. .	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 .. .. .	3
Housing Act 1957 Section 9(1A) (Disrepair) .. .. .	2
Housing Act 1961 Section 15 (Facilities - H.I.M.O.s) .. .. .	1
Housing Act 1980 Section 147 (Fire Escapes - H.I.M.O.) .. .. .	18
Housing Act 1974 Section 89 (Comp. Improvements) .. .. .	3
Sections 88/90 (Comp. Improvements) .. .. .	3
Control of Pollution Act 1974 Section 13 (Refuse Receptacles) .. .. .	1
Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 Section 21, 23, 24 (Improvement Notices) .. .. .	3

APPENDIX 2

HOUSING STATISTICS

Action Under Statutory Powers

1.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts 1936-1961		
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects remedied:		
(i)	by owner after service of formal notice .. .. .	25	
(ii)	by local authority in default of owner .. .. .	-	
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of		
	Informal Notice .. .. .	18	
2.	Proceedings under Section 4, Housing Act 1957		
	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	20	
3.	Proceedings under Section 9(1A) Housing Act 1957		
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after		
	service of formal notice .. .. .	2	
4.	Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 28 of the Housing Act 1957		
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	5	
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	13	
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal undertakings were accepted .. .. .	-	
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	-	
(e)	Number of Demolition Orders determined .. .. .	2	
(f)	Number of Closing Orders revoked .. .. .	16	

5.	Proceedings under Section 15, Housing Act 1961:-	
(a)	Number of houses in multi-occupation in respect of which notices were served requiring execution of works .. .. .	1
(b)	Number of houses in which works were executed after service of notice:-	
	By Owners .. .. .	-
	By local authority in default of Owners .. .. .	-
6.	Proceedings under Section 16, Housing Act 1961:-	
(a)	Number of houses in multi-occupation in respect of which notices were served requiring adequate means of escape from fire .. .. .	18
(b)	Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to re-let in whole or in part where means of escape from fire was inadequate .. .. .	-
(c)	Number of houses in which adequate means of escape from fire was provided:-	
	By Owners .. .. .	7
	By local authority in default of Owners .. .. .	-
7.	Proceedings under Section 88-90 Housing Act 1974:-	
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which compulsory improvement notices were served .. .. .	3
(b)	Number of houses improved after service of notice:-	
	By Owners .. .. .	1
	By local authority in default of Owners .. .. .	-
(c)	Number of counter-notices served by Owners requiring local authority to purchase dwellings subject to improvement notices .. .. .	-



### APPENDIX 3

#### PEST CONTROL

1. Analysis of complaints received during 1981 by the Pest Officer:-

	Business Premises	Private Premises	Local Authority Premises	Total
Rats	54	192	79	325
Mice	26	79	64	169
Bed Bugs	-	2	11	13
Fleas	-	32	18	50
Wasps	-	237	59	296
Other Insects	-	23	15	38
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	53

2. Analysis of work carried out by the Pest Officer and his Assistant:-

(a) Rodent Control

Premises and Land Treated	No. Treated	
	Rats	Mice
Dwelling-houses - Private	186	77
Business Premises	56	30
Local Authority Premises	85	62
Tips, Allotments, Playing Fields, Vacant Land	2	-
Sewer Manholes	594	-
Total number of Treatments	923	169
Total number of revisits during treatment	1253	453

Business Premises under contract	.. .. .	64
Visits to Premises under contract	.. .. .	636
Number of drain tests carried out	.. .. .	40
Number of drains found defective on test	.. .. .	30

2. (b) Other Pests

Wasps nests treated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	296
Houses treated for Bed Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Houses treated for Fleas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Premises treated for other insects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Revisits to treated premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	358
Pigeons trapped	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	972

APPENDIX 4

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1981

							<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	8	18
Infective Jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3	11
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	21	45
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	11	23
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	17	30



APPENDIX 5

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 - 1968

1. Industrial Dark Smoke

(a) Number of contraventions recorded	..	..	..	..	..	14
(b) Successful prosecutions	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) Unsuccessful prosecutions	..	..	..	..	..	-

2. Furnaces (Section 3)

(a) Notifications received	..	..	..	..	..	7
(b) Application for prior approval	..	..	..	..	..	7
(c) Number of applications granted	..	..	..	..	..	6

3. Heights of Chimneys

(a) Number of applications	..	..	..	..	..	7
(b) Number of cases in which alterations were required	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) Number approved	..	..	..	..	..	7
(d) Number of chimneys erected not complying with the approved plans	..	..	..	..	..	-
(e) Number of chimneys erected outside control	..	..	..			-

APPENDIX 6

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC. ACT 1974 AND

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) Registration and General Inspection

Number of newly registered premises	.. .. .	59
Number of premises receiving general inspections	.. .. .	402
Number of visits made to premises	.. .. .	673
		<hr/>
		1,134

Details of number of premises at end of year:-

Offices	.. .. .	350
Retail Shops	.. .. .	903
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	.. .. .	84
Catering Establishments, Canteens	.. .. .	172
Fuel Storage Depots	.. .. .	2
Consumer Services	.. .. .	98
Residential Accommodation	.. .. .	30
		<hr/>
		1,639

(b) Infringements of the Acts and Regulations made thereunder:-

Number of notices served	.. .. .	188
Number of defects found	.. .. .	221

(c) Accidents

Number of accidents notified	.. .. .	63
Number of accidents investigated	.. .. .	31
Number of visits relating to accidents	.. .. .	49

(32 accidents were not investigated being of a trivial nature)

Place of Accident:-

Office	.. .. .	2
Shop	.. .. .	29
Warehouse	.. .. .	22
Catering Establishments	.. .. .	9
Residential Accommodation	.. .. .	1

Cause of Accident:-

Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Use of hand tools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Falls	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Striking against an object or being struck by an object	..	..													13
Handling of goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Transport	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

Nature of Injury:-

Fracture or dislocations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sprains or strains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Open wounds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Bruising, crushing and concussion	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Burns	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2



APPENDIX 7

FOOD

1. Food Premises by Main Trade Classification:-

TYPE OF PREMISES	Total Number of Premises
Restaurants/Cafes	47
Public Houses with full knife and fork catering	41
Public Houses with snacks	72
Licensed Clubs	86
Hospital Kitchens	4
Education Establishment kitchens	53
Government Building kitchens	2
Factory kitchens	22
Hotels/Guest Houses	20
Food Manufacturers	5
Dairies	2
Takeaway food premises	30
Grocers including supermarkets	129
Butchers/Fishmongers	34
Bakers Shops	13
Bakehouses	8
Greengrocers	25
Wholesale Food Premises	14
Office canteens	21
Others	95
TOTAL	723

2. Registered Food Premises:-

Type of Registration	No. of Premises
2.1 Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16.	
a. Preparation or manufacture of potted, pickled or preserved foods.	17
b. Preparation or manufacture of sausages.	7
c. Preparation and cooking of other foods	31
d. Manufacture of ice cream	3
e. Wholesale and retail storage and sale of ice cream	2
f. Retail sale and storage of ice cream	234
2.2 Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959	
a. Registered Dairies	2
b. Registered Distributors	92

3. Milk Suppliers - Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963:-

No. of Dealers (Sterilisers) Licences operative in 1981.	Nil
No. of Dealers (Pasteurisers) Licences operative in 1981.	2
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of Pasteurised Milk operative in 1981. .. .. .	92
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of Pasteurised Milk issued in 1981. .. .. .	92
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of Sterilised Milk operative in 1981 .. .. .	54
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of Sterilised Milk issued in 1981. .. .. .	54
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of U.H.T. Milk operative in 1981. .. .. .	48
No. of Dealers Licences for sale of U.H.T. Milk issued in 1981. .. .. .	48

4. Foodstuffs condemned during the year:-

Canned Meats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167lbs.
Miscellaneous Canned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,324lbs.
Raw Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,543lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157lbs.
Refrigerator Failures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,923lbs.
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,287lbs.
Miscellaneous Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,052lbs.

Total Weight - 13.08 tons



5. Bacteriological Samples and Specimens

Pasteurised Milk

Number of Samples	14
Methylene Blue test - Satis.	14
"      "      " - Void.	-
Phosphatase test - Satis.	4

Raw Milk

Number of Samples	9
Brucellosis - Satis.	9
Antibiotics - Satis.	9
Salmonella - Satis.	9
Meth. Blue test - Unsatis.	-

Ice Cream

Number of Samples	39
Grade I/II	27
Grade III/IV	12
Void	-

Swabs and Rinses - Food

Equipment etc.

Number taken	10
Plate Count - Satis.	10
- Unsatis.	-

Other Foods

Satis. Unsatis.

Fresh Cream	8	3
Synthetic Cream	4	1
Cream Confection	5	3
Ice Cream Mix	5	-
Miscellaneous	2	-

Goats Milk

Number of samples	1
"      " - Satis.	1
"      " - Unsatis.	-

Total No. of Samples taken: 87

## APPENDIX 8

### LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Housing Acts 1957 to 1980.  
Housing Finance Act 1972.  
Land Compensation Act 1973.  
Rent Acts 1957 to 1977.  
Landlord and Tenant Act 1962.  
Defective Premises Act 1972.  
Public Health Acts 1936 to 1961.  
Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.  
Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969.  
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.  
Food and Drugs Act 1955.  
Food and Drugs (Control of Food Premises) Act 1976.  
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.  
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.  
Imported Food Regulations 1968.  
Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1959.  
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.  
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963.  
Poultry Meat (Hygiene) Regulations 1976.  
Slaughterhouses Act 1974.  
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1977.  
The Meat Inspection Regulations 1966.  
The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969.  
Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972.  
Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974.  
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.  
Shops Acts 1950 to 1965.  
Factories Act 1961.  
Control of Pollution Act 1974.  
Clean Air Acts 1956 to 1968.  
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.  
Worcester Corporation Act 1951.  
Pet Animals Act 1951.  
Riding Establishments Act 1964.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963.

Breeding of Dogs Act 1973.

Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act 1951.

National Assistance Act 1948.

Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (and byelaws made thereunder).

Standards for School Premises Regulations 1972.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.





